

City of Savannah

Georgia



Taxicab Ordinance

SAVANNAH CODE

Part 6, Licensing and Regulation
Chapter 1, Businesses and Occupations
ARTICLE Q, Taxicabs

Parking Services Department
Post Office Box 2101
Savannah, Georgia 31402-2101

Phone (912) 651-6468

SAVANNAH CODE
Part 6
Licensing and Regulation
Chapter 1
Businesses and Occupations

ARTICLE Q
Taxicabs

Section 6-1421. Title.

This ordinance shall be known and may be recited as “The Taxicab Ordinance”.

Section 6-1422. Definitions.

(a) **City.** The word “city” shall mean the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, Georgia a municipal corporation, said definition to include all areas within the corporate limits of the City of Savannah.

(b) **Taxicab.** A motor vehicle engaged in the business of carrying passengers for hire, or offering to carry passengers for hire, except motor vehicles used as ambulances, sight-seeing cars or buses, and except for limousines and buses operating on a fixed route.

(c) **Taxicab Regulatory Permit.** The right and privilege granted by the City for the operation of a taxicab within the corporate limits of the City issued upon the receipt of a regulatory fee established in the Revenue Ordinance.

(d) **Taxicab Company.** The holder of one or more taxicab regulatory permits to operate a taxicab under the provisions of this ordinance, whether a person, firm, partnership, or corporation.

(e) **Driver.** Any person who drives or operates a taxicab on the streets of Savannah.

(f) **Taxicab Driver’s Permit.** The written authority granted by the City for an individual to drive or operate a taxicab within the City of Savannah.

(g) **Street.** The word “street” shall mean and include any street, alley, lane, avenue, court, or public place in the City of Savannah.

(h) **Transportation Services Coordinator.** The individual employee or organizational unit of the City charged with the responsibility for administering and enforcing this article, except for specific responsibilities otherwise provided herein.

(i) **Stand.** A public place alongside the curb of a street or elsewhere which has been designated by the City as reserved exclusively for the use of taxicabs.

(j) Telephone Stand. A place alongside a street or elsewhere where a taxicab company has been authorized by the City to install a telephone or call box for the taking of calls and the dispatching of taxicabs.

(k) Taximeter. A meter instrument or device attached to a taxicab which measures the distance driven and the waiting time upon which the fare is based.

(l) Taxicab Appeals Panel. A citizen group appointed by the City Manager to review appeals of citations and suspensions pursuant to The Taxicab Ordinance.

Section 6-1423. Taxicab Regulatory Permit required.

No person, firm or corporation shall operate a taxicab on the streets of the City unless a Taxicab Regulatory Permit has been issued by the City for such taxicab. All taxicabs shall display a current Taxicab Regulatory Permit issued by the City to signify compliance with this permit requirement in each vehicle. A Taxicab Regulatory Permit shall be issued by the Transportation Services Coordinator only after the taxicab has been inspected and found to comply with all requirements of this article, including the payment of the Taxicab Regulatory Permit fee. The Taxicab Regulatory Permit fee shall be established by the City Revenue Ordinance.

Section 6-1424. Fixed business address required.

Each taxicab company shall, as a condition of receiving one or more Taxicab Regulatory Permits to operate a taxicab in Savannah, provide a physical address for the taxicab company. If the company headquarters is to be moved, the owner of the taxicab company shall notify the Transportation Services Coordinator of the new location prior to relocation. If the taxicab company is located within the corporate limits of the City of Savannah, the taxicab company shall conform with all zoning, business tax certificate, and other applicable laws of the City.

Section 6-1425. Indemnity for benefit of City.

Any taxicab company operating under this article shall hold the City harmless against any and all liability, loss, costs, damages, or expense which may accrue to the City by reason of the negligence, default, or misconduct of the company in connection with the rights granted to such company hereunder. Nothing in this article shall be considered to make the City liable for damages because of any negligent act or omission or commission by any taxicab company, its servants, agents, drivers, or other employees, during the operation by the company of a taxicab business or service, either in respect to injuries to persons or with respect to damage to property which may be sustained.

Section 6-1426. Insurance for benefit of passengers.

Any taxicab company desiring to do business in the City shall give and maintain a policy of indemnity insurance with an indemnity insurance company authorized to do business in the state for each vehicle in use as a taxicab, or a self insurance certificate issued under State guidelines and regulated by the Insurance Commissioner of Georgia. Proof of insurance shall be kept in the vehicle and on file at the Office of the Clerk of Council and with the Transportation Services Coordinator. The minimum insurance coverage shall be in accordance with Georgia State law. Such indemnity insurance shall inure to the benefit of any person who is injured or who sustains damage to property caused by the negligence of a taxicab company or the taxicab driver, whether as servant, agent, or independent contractor.

Section 6-1427. Blanket policy.

Any company or person operating a taxicab in the City shall give a separate policy of indemnity insurance or certificate of self insurance for each separate taxicab for hire, except where such company or person actually owns or holds legal title to more than one taxicab, in which event, such company or person may give one policy of indemnity insurance or certificate or self insurance covering all the taxicabs actually owned. This latter provision, however, shall not apply to any group of persons separately owning taxicabs who may be jointly operating or doing business under a licensed taxicab company name. The taxicab company is responsible for ensuring that individual persons operating taxicabs under said license shall comply with all state laws and local ordinances governing insurance coverage.

Section 6-1428. Notice when voided.

Each certificate of insurance submitted to the Clerk of Council and Transportation Services Coordinator prior to the issuance of a Taxicab Regulatory Permit shall include, by endorsement to the policy, a statement that written notice shall be given to the City by certified mail thirty (30) days prior to cancellation or upon any material change in coverage.

DIVISION 1

Taxicab Driver's Permit

Section 6-1429. Taxicab Driver's Permit required.

No person shall operate a taxicab for hire upon the streets of the City, and no person who owns or operates a taxicab company shall permit a taxicab to be driven, and no taxicab operating under a taxicab company licensed by the City, shall be driven at any time for hire, unless the driver of said taxicab shall have first obtained and shall have then in force a Taxicab Driver's Permit issued under the provisions of this article and the certificate of insurance coverage for the vehicle is on file as provided for in this article with proof of such insurance being in the vehicle.

Section 6-1430. Application.

(a) Any person desiring a permit required by this article shall submit an application in writing to the Transportation Services Coordinator, on a form to be furnished by the Transportation Services Coordinator. Such application shall be made under oath and shall state the age of the applicant, the applicant's address, length of time the applicant has resided in the City, whether the applicant has any physical infirmities, and whether the applicant has been convicted of a violation of any of the laws of the state or of this Code or other ordinances of the City and if so, when and of what offense, and the sentence of the court.

(b) The Transportation Services Coordinator will give a written test to each applicant for a new Taxicab Driver's Permit who must demonstrate a knowledge of State law, City ordinance, and location of streets and highways within the service area. The applicant must have a score of 80 or higher before a taxi permit may be issued.

(c) The applicant shall also be required to attend a customer service training course sponsored by the Parking Services Department. The course will require taxicab operators to demonstrate a general knowledge of Savannah history and attractions, the taxicab ordinance policies and procedures, and customer service standards. Taxicab drivers who maintain a valid Taxicab Driver's Permit continuously shall not be required to attend this course for annual permit renewals.

(d) All taxicab operators holding a valid permit as of May 4, 2001 shall be required to attend a customer service training course prior to the renewal of the permit in 2002.

Section 6-1431. Physician's certificate required.

Each application for a driver's permit shall be accompanied by a certificate from a licensed physician of the City certifying that, in his opinion, the applicant is not afflicted with any disease or infirmity which might make the applicant an unsafe or unsatisfactory driver. In the case of renewal of a driver's permit, the certificate shall be dated within two years of the date that the application was filed with the Transportation Services Coordinator. Should the Transportation Services Coordinator determine that the health of any driver has deteriorated to the extent that it might make the applicant an unsafe or unsatisfactory driver, the driver shall be required to provide an updated physician's certificate upon the request of the Transportation Services Coordinator within five working days of such request. Failure to comply with the request shall subject such driver to suspension of the driver's permit in accordance with provisions of Section 6-1488 of this ordinance.

Section 6-1432. Qualifications of applicant.

An applicant for a driver's permit under this article must:

1. Not be less than 18 years of age.
2. Have no physical infirmities which make said applicant an unsafe or unsatisfactory taxicab driver.
3. Not have been convicted of operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating beverages or drugs within two years prior to the date of the application for such permit, or have been convicted of reckless driving within one year prior to the date of the application for such permit, or been convicted of any of these offenses three or more times within three years prior to the date of the application for such permit. Nor shall a permit be issued to any person who has within three years prior to the date of the application for such permit been convicted of any crime relating to transporting persons for immoral purposes (prostitution, solicitation for prostitution, or any sex related offense), or who has within three years prior to the date of the application for such permit have been convicted of, been on probation, parole, or served time on a sentence for a felony. A plea of *nolo contendere* to any of the offenses set out in this section shall be deemed a conviction.
4. Be a citizen of the United States or an alien admitted for permanent residence or who has otherwise been granted employment authorization by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Services.

Section 6-1433. Photographs of applicant.

Before any permit is granted under this article, the Transportation Services Coordinator shall take two (2) photographs of the applicant. One (1) photograph shall be attached permanently to the driver's permit for display in the vehicle which the applicant is to drive, and the second photograph shall be filed for record by the Transportation Services Coordinator.

Section 6-1434. Driver's fees.

Before any permit is granted under this article, the following fees shall be paid by the applicant:

(a) Background investigation fee. A \$10.00 background investigation fee shall be paid by the applicant in accordance with Section 6-1436 of this article.

(b) Driver permit fee. A driver permit fee in the amount of \$10.00 shall be paid by the applicant upon issuance of the permit or \$5.00 if applicant brings two pictures of herself/himself to the Transportation Services Coordinator. Permit will be given on a temporary basis when accompanied by a background and driver's history check and a complete physical given by a certified physician. The test for a driver's permit must be taken within thirty days of application.

(c) Permit transfer fee. No driver may transfer from one taxicab company to another except upon approval of the Transportation Services Coordinator and upon payment of a \$5.00 permit fee.

(d) Test. Applicants will be issued a taxicab test package and a customer service training manual at no cost. The applicant will be allowed two opportunities to pass the test within any 90 day period.

(e) A current 7 year M.V.R. is required at the time of application and renewal. This is the responsibility of the permit holder.

Section 6-1435. Current State driver's license required.

Any person applying for a Taxicab Driver's Permit under this article must show that a current motor vehicle operator's license has been issued or approved by the State of Georgia, and that the license is not under suspension or revocation.

Section 6-1436. Police investigation of applicant.

The Transportation Services Coordinator shall conduct or arrange to be conducted an investigation of each applicant for a Taxicab Driver's Permit, and a report of such investigation and a copy of the traffic and police record of the applicant, if any, shall be attached to the application.

Section 6-1437. Examination of applicant; issuance or denial of permit.

It shall be the duty of the Transportation Services Coordinator to examine the applicant, his reference, police and traffic record, and other vouchers, and thereafter to either grant or refuse the permit. In the event of a refusal to grant a permit, the applicant shall have the right to enter an appeal as provided in Section 6-1490.

Section 6-1438. Permit and notice to be displayed.

(a) The permit issued under the provisions of this article shall be placed on display in the taxicab to be operated by the holder of the permit in a display case or holder designed for that purpose on the dashboard facing the passenger compartment, in clear view of the passengers at all times when the taxicab is for hire.

(b) A notice provided by the Transportation Services Coordinator shall be on display on the front dashboard facing the passenger compartment. The notice shall contain sufficient information to allow the customer to contact the Transportation Services Coordinator concerning compliments or complaints about the taxicab or operator.

Section 6-1439. Alteration of permits or notices prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person willfully to alter, deface, obliterate, or destroy a Taxicab Driver's Permit or notice to passengers, or cause or allow the same.

Section 6-1440. Permit not transferable.

Any Taxicab Driver's Permit issued under this article is not transferable from one taxicab driver to another, and is to be used solely by the person to whom it is issued. Any permitted taxicab driver shall notify the Transportation Services Coordinator prior to beginning employment with another taxicab company.

Section 6-1441. Duration of permit.

Any Taxicab Driver's Permit shall be in effect for twelve (12) months from the date of issue. Permits may be renewed, upon application and payment of the required fee, for each twelve (12) month period thereafter, unless the permit for the preceding period has been revoked or is under suspension.

Section 6-1442. Reserved

Section 6-1443. Reserved

Section 6-1444. Reserved

Section 6-1445. Reserved

DIVISION 2

Operating Regulations

Section 6-1446. Identification and marking generally.

Every taxicab shall have a sign plainly indicating on the door on each side of the vehicle, in letters not less than four inches high, the full name of the taxicab company operating the vehicle, including words such as "Taxicab," "Taxi," or "Cab." Such sign shall be professionally applied and shall be either painted or permanently affixed to each side of the vehicle. There shall be no outside advertising of any kind on taxicabs.

Section 6-1447. Number generally.

There shall be shown on the door on each side and on the rear of each taxicab a number at least four inches high, such number to be separate and distinct from that on any other public vehicle or taxicab in the City. Such number shall be assigned to such taxicab and the owner thereof by the Transportation Services Coordinator. Such number shall be professionally applied and shall be either painted or permanently affixed thereon.

Section 6-1448. Identification lights.

Every taxicab operated on the streets of the City shall display, as a part of its equipment, an identification insignia on the top, which shall be electrically lit at night, and which top light shall carry either the name of the company operating the taxicab, the word "Taxi" or the word "Taxicab," or "Cab", provided, however, that during the period in which a taxicab is occupied and under hire by a passenger or passengers, the identification insignia on the top of the vehicle shall not be lit.

Section 6-1449. Registration of number and names of owner and operator.

The number assigned a taxicab in accordance with this article together with the names of the owner and operator of the taxicab, shall be registered with the Transportation Services Coordinator in a book to be kept for such purpose.

Section 6-1450. Distinctive color scheme.

No two (2) taxicab companies or taxicab operators may operate taxicabs of the same color scheme. Color schemes shall be recorded and controlled by the Transportation Services Coordinator.

Section 6-1451. Safe mechanical condition of taxicabs required.

Every taxicab operated on the streets of the City shall be maintained in a safe mechanical condition, with all safety and pollution control equipment remaining intact and operative, at all times when the taxicab is in service.

Section 6-1452. Cleanliness of taxicabs required.

Each vehicle operating under this article shall be kept painted, and in a clean sanitary condition, free of litter and debris and at all times suitable for public transportation of passengers.

Section 6-1453. State license tag for taxicabs required.

Prior to the use and operation of any vehicle as a taxicab under the provisions of this article, the owner of said vehicle shall secure and display on the vehicle a current Georgia license registration tag.

Section 6-1454. Reserved**Section 6-1455. Reserved****Section 6-1456. Manifest.**

Each taxicab driver, operator, or company shall maintain a daily manifest upon which shall be recorded all trips made by each vehicle each day, showing time and place of origin, destination of each trip and amount of fare. All such completed manifests shall be returned to the taxicab company by the driver at least weekly or shall be maintained by the company at its offices at the conclusion of each driver's daily tour of duty. Each taxicab company shall retain and preserve all driver's manifests for at least 90 days and said manifests shall be made available to the Transportation Services Coordinator, any official of the Revenue Department, or to any officer of the Police Department at all reasonable times. The manifest shall be kept in a legible condition.

Section 6-1457. Taximeter required.

All taxicabs operated under the authority of this article shall be equipped with a taximeter fastened in front of the passengers, visible to them at all times day and night; and, after sundown, the face of the taximeter shall be illuminated. The taximeter shall be operated by a mechanism of standard design and construction. Any such taximeter shall be sealed at all points and connections by the Transportation Coordinator or representatives which, if manipulated, would affect its correct reading and recording. Each taximeter shall have thereon a signal to denote when the vehicle is employed and when it is not employed, and it shall be the duty of the driver to activate the signal of such taximeter into a non-recording position at the termination of each trip. Any taximeter shall be subject to inspection at any time by the Transportation Services Coordinator.

Section 6-1458. Maximum rates of fare; posting required.

(a) *Maximum Meter Rates.* As a condition of licensing by the City of Savannah and operating within the City, All taxicab companies and drivers shall charge no more than the following schedule of fares for all trips originating or terminating within said City, except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section:

(1) The maximum meter rate shall be as follows:

- (a) a rate of \$2.00 for the first one-sixth (1/6) of a mile;
- (b) a rate of \$0.30 per one-sixth (1/6) of a mile thereafter;
- (c) should a taximeter charge for increments of a mile differently from those in Section 6-1458 (1) (a) & (b), the maximum rates shall nevertheless not exceed \$3.50 for the first mile and \$1.80 per mile thereafter.

(2) One dollar (\$1.00) for each passenger in excess of one riding in the vehicle on the same trip;

(3) Twenty-one dollars (\$21.00) per hour waiting time; thirty-five cents (\$.35) per minute for traffic delays.

(4) There shall be no charge for baggage which can be transported within the interior and/or cargo area of any taxicab.

(b) Airport Maximum Flat Rate Fares. Taxicab trips between (to and from) the Savannah International Airport and locations within Savannah/Chatham County and other common destinations shall be charged a flat rate fare based on the number of passengers entering the taxicab at the beginning of the trip. Such fares shall be no greater than as shown in the following schedule:

____(1) AIRPORT TO/FROM	MAXIMUM FARE
HISTORIC DOWNTOWN INNS All Locations	\$25.00
HUTCHINSON ISLAND INNS All Locations	\$31.00
SOUTHSIDE SAVANNAH INNS	\$33.00 (unless indicated as other below)
Budget Inn	\$38.00
Comfort Inn and Suites	\$38.00
Days Inn Southside	\$38.00
Springhill Suites	\$38.00
Suburban Lodge	\$38.00
Town Place Suites by Marriot	\$38.00
Villager Lodge	\$38.00
GATEWAY INTERCHANGE I-95 & GA 204	\$24.00
WEST CHATHAM COUNTY/AIRPORT	\$8.50 (unless indicated as other below)
Country Inn & Suites Savannah North (PW)	\$12.00
Hampton Inn Savannah North (PW)	\$12.00
Holiday Inn Express Savannah(PW)	\$12.00
Masters Economy Inn (Garden City)	\$12.00
Ramada Limited (Pooler)	\$12.00
Sleep Inn (PW)	\$12.00
ISLANDS/ TYBEE BEACH (all locations)	\$50.00
BLUFFTON/SUN CITY	\$50.00 (unless indicated as other below)
Hilton Head Garden Inn	\$60.00

HILTON HEAD ISLAND \$75.00

SKIDAWAY ISLAND/THE LANDINGS \$60.00

MILITARY LOCATIONS

Fort Stewart \$70.00

Hunter Army Airfield \$33.00

Marine Corp Air Station \$75.00

Parris Island \$75.00

- (2) Five dollars (\$5.00) within Georgia and ten dollars (\$10.00) for out of state locations for each passenger in excess of one riding in the vehicle on the same trip. Ten dollars (\$10.00) for Hilton Head (out of state) does not apply until the third and subsequent passengers.
- (3) Twenty-one dollars (\$21.00) per hour waiting time; provided, however, that there shall be no charge for traffic delays.
- (4) In the event that two or more passengers enter the same taxicab at the Savannah International Airport and the destinations of such passengers are not the same, all passengers shall pay a prorated portion of the flat rate fare, and the passenger or passengers whose destination is to a location other than one listed in this section shall pay the fare computed on the meter for the remaining segment of the trip starting at the final stop at a listed destination.
- (5) For taxicab trips which neither originate nor terminate at the Savannah International Airport, fares shall be metered, with rates limited to the maximums shown in paragraph (a) above.
- (6) There shall be no charge for baggage which can be transported within the interior and/or cargo area of any taxicab.

(c) Travel to Passenger Location. No charge shall be made for time and/or mileage for traveling to the location of a prospective passenger.

(d) Posting Rates Required. No owner or driver of a taxicab shall charge a greater amount for the use of a taxicab than the published and printed rates which shall be displayed within and on each vehicle, as provided below:

- (1) Each taxicab operating within Savannah shall have a rate card setting forth its rates for mileage, waiting time, extra passengers, excess baggage, and Airport flat rates. Said rate card shall be printed in standard block letters showing the taxicab company name not less than three-quarters inch in height, and the rates not less than three-eighths inch in height. The rate card shall be displayed within the vehicle in such place as to be conspicuous and in view of all passengers, subject to the approval of the Transportation Services Coordinator.
- (2) Each taxicab shall have painted or affixed by decal on the exterior of the left and right rear doors its schedule of meter rates and the statement "AIRPORT FLAT- RATE CARD PROVIDED ON REQUEST", or equivalent wording as approved by the Transportation Services Coordinator, in standard block letters not less than one inch in height. Such letters shall be in a color which contrasts with the vehicle color, subject to approval of the Transportation Services Coordinator.

Section 6-1459. Receipts.

The driver of any taxicab shall, upon demand by the passenger, render to such passenger a receipt for the amount charged, on which shall be the name of the taxicab company, the taxicab number, name and permit number of the driver, trip origin and destination, amount of charges, and date of transaction.

Section 6-1460. Refusal of passenger to pay legal fare.

It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse to pay the legal fare of any vehicle having a valid Taxicab Driver's Permit under this article after having hired the same, and it shall be unlawful for any person to hire any taxicab with intent to defraud the person from whom it is hired of the value of such service.

Section 6-1461. Stands generally.

No parking shall be permitted in the corporate limits of the City except at such stands as may be established by the City, which taxicab stands shall be designated by signs. Whenever any such stand is established, such stand may be used by taxicabs upon a rotation basis of "first come-first served". Taxicab drivers shall pull into stands from the rear and shall advance forward as the taxicabs ahead depart. Drivers shall stay within five feet of their cabs and shall not solicit passengers or engage in loud or boisterous talk while at the stand. Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a passenger from boarding any taxicab of choice that is parked at a taxicab stand.

Section 6-1462. Telephone stands.

It shall be unlawful for any person to install or attach any telephone or similar device on any telephone post, telegraph post, tree post, or on the side of any building in any street, sidewalk, alley or lane in the City for the purpose of using such telephone in connection with the taxicab business, unless a place in the street adjacent to such telephone has been designated a regular stand for taxicabs. The operator or driver of taxicabs holding a valid Taxicab Driver's Permit under this article shall not use taxicab stands as base stations to dispatch other units.

Section 6-1463. Application for taxicab stands.

Any person desiring to have a place designated as a regular stand for taxicabs in the City or as a telephone stand shall make application by written petition to the Mayor and Aldermen for the establishment of such taxicab stand, setting out where such stand is desired to be set apart. The written permission of the property owner whose property abuts shall be first obtained and filed with the application.

Section 6-1464. Taxicab parking prohibited in certain areas.

It shall be unlawful for taxicabs to use or park in any area or stand designated for the exclusive use of airline limousines and no parking shall be permitted at the International Airport except at such stands as may be designated by the Mayor and Aldermen upon the recommendation of the Airport Commission for the exclusive use of designated companies and by no other company or persons.

Section 6-1465. Proper dress required.

While operating a taxicab for hire on the streets of the City, a taxicab driver shall be properly attired in accordance with the following standards:

(a) A driver's clothing and shoes shall be neat and in good repair, free of holes, tears, fading, stains, or soil.

(b) Collarless shirts, bare midriff or backless attire, shorts, cut-off jeans, and mini-skirts are prohibited while the taxicab is for hire; provided, however, during hot summer days shorts may be worn if the length is not more than two inches above the knee. Sandals or open toe shoes are prohibited.

(e) Proper hygiene required

Section 6-1466. Reserved**Section 6-1467. Soliciting passengers prohibited.**

It shall be unlawful for any person to solicit passengers verbally or by gesture, directly or indirectly, at any taxicab stand or upon the streets of the City.

Section 6-1468. Cruising.

Taxicab drivers shall be permitted to drive such taxicabs about the streets of the City for the purpose of picking up and transporting passengers.

Section 6-1469. Use of designated bus stops prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any driver of any taxicab to park or stand at any bus stop designated for use by the Chatham Area Transit Authority.

Section 6-1470. Carrying more than one fare-paying passenger.

It shall be unlawful for the operator of any taxicab to pick up a second passenger or to permit any other person to occupy or ride in the taxicab when the same is occupied by a fare-paying passenger or by members of the party of the fare-paying passenger.

Section 6-1471. Restriction on number of passengers.

No driver shall permit more persons to be carried in a taxicab as passengers than the rated seating capacity of his taxicab. A child in arms shall not be counted as a passenger.

Section 6-1472. Refusal to carry orderly passengers prohibited.

No driver shall refuse or neglect to convey any orderly person or persons, upon request, unless previously engaged or unable or forbidden by the provisions of this article to do so.

Section 6-1473. Prohibitions of drivers.

It shall be unlawful for any driver of a taxicab to solicit business for any hotel or other business, or to attempt to divert patronage from one hotel or business to another. It shall be unlawful for a driver to solicit business from any employee of any hotel or other such business. Neither shall such driver engage in selling or soliciting for the sale of intoxicating beverages or illegal drugs, or solicit for prostitution, or use his vehicle for any purpose other than the transportation of passengers.

Section 6-1474. Smoking prohibited when taxicab is occupied by passenger.

It shall be unlawful for the driver of any taxicab operated upon the streets of the City to smoke in such taxicab while the taxicab is occupied by a passenger.

Section 6-1475. Taxicab movement prohibited under certain circumstances.

No driver shall collect fares, make change, or take on or discharge passengers while his taxicab is in motion.

Section 6-1476. Property left in taxicab by passenger.

Any taxicab driver or operator discovering in any taxicab under such driver's or operator's control personal property, which was lost or left therein by a passenger of such taxicab, shall report such loss and deliver all such property to the office of the taxicab company within twelve (12) hours after the discovery of such property. The driver's report shall include brief particulars to enable the company to identify the owner of the property. The company shall retain the property on behalf of the owner for at least sixty (60) days.

Section 6-1477. Sleeping, lounging, or lying in taxicabs prohibited.

While any taxicab is parked at a stand or is otherwise in service, the driver will remain awake and alert at all times. Sleeping, lounging in a reclining posture, or lying in the taxicab is prohibited.

Section 6-1478. Radio Scanners Prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any taxicab driver, owner, or operator to use a radio frequency scanner or to be in possession of a radio frequency scanner in a taxicab or in company headquarters, and no such scanner shall be in the possession of any taxicab driver, owner, or operator at any other location where such scanner is intended to be used to monitor the radio transmissions of other taxicab companies.

Section 6-1479. Firearms in taxicabs.

(a) Any driver possessing a firearm in a taxicab must have a current valid State of Georgia firearms permit and written permission of the taxicab company. Such driver shall furnish the Transportation Services Coordinator a copy of the firearms permit, the brand name, serial number, type, and caliber of the firearm, and the original written permission statement of the taxicab company, which statement shall be signed by the owner or chief operating officer of the company.

(b) Possession of a firearm on Savannah International Airport property is prohibited at all times.

Section 6-1480. Age limit of taxicabs.

Every taxicab operating on the streets of the City shall be no more than ten model years older than the current calendar year on or after January 1, 2005.

DIVISION 3

Enforcement

Section 6-1481. Vehicle inspections required.

Each taxicab shall be inspected by the Transportation Services Coordinator for compliance with the provisions of this article and shall pass such inspection before the vehicle may be used as a taxicab in the City. Each taxicab involved in an accident shall be inspected by the Transportation Services Coordinator before it may be returned to service transporting passengers for hire. Each taxicab shall be inspected by the Transportation Services Coordinator at least once annually to ensure continued maintenance of safe operating condition and continued compliance with the provisions of this article.

Section 6-1482. Additional Vehicle Inspection

Any taxicab shall be subject to inspection at any time and upon discovery of any violation of this or other applicable laws, the Transportation Services Coordinator shall take appropriate remedial action as authorized under this ordinance. The Transportation Services Coordinator shall establish a systematic procedure to perform random, unannounced inspections of taxicabs to enforce compliance with this ordinance and all other applicable laws. By accepting a Taxicab Regulatory Permit and/or a Taxicab Driver's Permit to operate taxicab service in Savannah, each taxicab owner/operator consents to unannounced, randomly selected inspections to ensure compliance with this and other applicable ordinances.

Section 6 -1483. Taximeter Inspection

Pursuant to sections 6-1457 and 6-1483 of this ordinance, any taximeter shall be subject to inspection at any time and upon discovery of any violation or any inaccuracy, the Transportation Services Coordinator shall notify the operator of said taxicab to cease operation immediately, which action shall be taken. The taxicab shall be kept out of service until the taximeter is repaired, the required working condition is restored, and the taximeter is resealed by the Transportation Services Coordinator.

Section 6 - 1484. Citation for Violation of Taxicab Ordinance

The Transportation Services Coordinator, or other agents authorized by the Parking Services Director, shall have the authority to cite or subpoena taxicab operators and/or taxicab company owners for violations of this ordinance. The fees for violations of this ordinance shall be as provided by ordinance and published in the annual City of Savannah Revenue Ordinance.

Section 6 -1485. Failure to Pay Fee

When any taxicab company owner or taxicab operator fails to pay a fine in accordance with Section 6-1485 as specified by ordinance and published in the annual Revenue Ordinance within ten (10) calendar days after the notice was issued, a late payment penalty shall be added to the violation fee amount as specified by ordinance and published in the annual Revenue Ordinance.

A taxicab operator or taxicab company owner may appeal citations to the Taxicab Appeals Panel as provided under Section 6-1490. In the case that a taxicab operator or taxicab company

owner submits a written appeal to the Parking Services Director before the end of the tenth calendar day from the date of the citation, no late payment penalty fee shall be applied.

Section 6 -1486. Deadline Decal

The Transportation Services Coordinator, upon observing violations of Division 2 of this ordinance which deals with the physical condition of taxicabs, shall place a deadline decal on the windshield of the vehicle, said decal to list all violations. No driver or other unauthorized person shall remove or deface a deadline decal. No driver shall use a vehicle to transport passengers for hire while a deadline decal is in place. The Transportation Services Coordinator will remove the deadline decal after correction of all listed violations.

Section 6-1487. Authority for removal of taxicabs from streets.

The Transportation Services Coordinator shall have the authority to remove from operation on the streets of the City any vehicle used as a taxicab which is in violation of this article and to prohibit operation of such taxicab until all deficiencies have been corrected. An order of the Transportation Services Coordinator to remove a vehicle from the City streets may be appealed to the Parking Services Director, and if so desired, appealed again to the Taxicab Appeals Panel as provided herein. Until the appeal has been heard and the Taxicab Appeals Panel has ruled otherwise, the taxicab ordered to be removed from service shall not be used for operations.

Section 6-1488. Suspension of the driver's permit.

The Transportation Services Coordinator shall have the authority to recommend to the Parking Services Director suspension of a Taxicab Driver's Permit for the following reasons: (i) the driver is charged with operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of intoxicating beverages or drugs, or reckless driving; (ii) making any false statement in the application for the permit; (iii) operating a taxicab in violation of any provisions of this article or applicable State law.

The Parking Services Director, after hearing evidence from both the Transportation Services Coordinator and the taxicab driver or his representative, shall have authority to suspend the Taxicab Driver's Permit for a period of up to six months.

If a taxicab driver is suspended three times within any three year period, the fourth such suspension within said three year period shall be for a period of one year.

The Parking Services Director will promptly notify the taxicab driver in writing of any suspension, in which case the taxicab driver shall have the immediate right to appeal in writing, but within ten days, in accordance with Section 6-1490.

Section 6-1489. Driving after suspension or revocation prohibited.

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motor vehicle for hire or taxicab for the carriage of passengers during any period in which his permit to do so is suspended or revoked in accord with the provisions of this article.

Section 6-1490. Taxicab Appeals Panel

The Taxicab Appeals Panel shall meet as needed but no less frequently than once annually to review unresolved appeals of permit denials, citations, suspensions, and Taxicab

removal orders pursuant to this Ordinance. The Taxicab Appeals Panel members shall be appointed for four year terms by the City Manager, and members of the Taxicab Appeals Panel shall serve as members of this Appeals Panel without pay or compensation of any kind from the City of Savannah. The Taxicab Appeals Panel shall be comprised of the following five members:

- (a) a Taxicab company owner headquartered within the limits of the City of Savannah;
- (b) a Taxicab operator who resides in the Corporate limits of Savannah and who is not in the employ of the Taxicab company owner on the Taxicab Appeals Panel;
- (c) a representative of the hospitality industry;
- (d) the Assistant City Manager for Management and Financial Services of the City of Savannah; and
- (e) an independent citizen

Upon the receipt of a written appeal of the Parking Services Director's ruling, the Taxicab Appeals Panel shall convene with reasonable notice to hear evidence from both the Transportation Services Coordinator/Parking Services Director and the Taxicab driver or his/her representative. By a majority vote of the entire body, the Taxicab Appeals Panel may: i) uphold the Parking Service Director's ruling, ii) overturn the Parking Service Director's ruling, iii) reduce the Parking Service Director's ruling and impose a lesser penalty authorized under this ordinance.

Decisions of the Taxicab Appeals Panel may be appealed to the City Manager, whose decision shall be final.

Section 6-1491. Revocation of driver's permit.

In the event that any driver holding a permit under this article at any time ceases to meet the qualifications described in Section 6-1432, or fails to correct satisfactorily any false statement made in the application for the permit, or fails to operate his Taxicab in accordance with the provisions of this article, upon recommendation of the Taxicab Appeals Panel, the City Manager shall be empowered to revoke permanently the permit or to restore the same after a hearing as provided in Section 6-1490.

AMENDED January 2006